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The Spectator

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Publishing the Truth, From Good Motives and For Justifiable Ends

Hamilton inaugurates 21st President Steven Tepper, the pioneer of “What If?” Initiative

by Henry Meisner ’26
STAFF WRITER

This Saturday, Steven Tepper was officially inaugurated as the 21st president of Hamilton College after a parade of praise from friends and members of the Hamilton community. Throughout the hour-and-a-half ceremony, community leaders from Hamilton’s student government, board of trustees and the village of Clinton gave speeches introducing and welcoming Tepper to Hamilton. Amongst these speeches, a theme of creativity emerged, culminating in Tepper’s announcement of a new presidential initiative to provide funding for “what if” ideas.

The ceremony began with the procession of Hamilton College faculty to “La Mourisque” and “Fanfare from La Peri,” played by the Hamilton College Brass Ensemble. It continued into a Land Acknowledgement from College Marshal Lisa Trivedi and a welcome speech from Chairman of the Board of Trustees David Solomon ’84, P’16. After a musical interlude of “Hor che la vaga Aurora” from the Hamilton College Choir, greetings were given by Student Government Alliance Vice President Quentin Messer ’26, professor of chemistry Karen Brewer, Co-Chairs of the Staff Assembly Kevin Alexander ’13 and Katrina Schell ’03, Mayor of Clinton Elizabeth Tantillo, Alumni Association Immediate Past President John Christopher ’83 P’14 and Board of Trustees Co-Vice Chair Linda Johnson ’80. Each greeting was on behalf of the different groups involved in the Hamilton College community.

Following the greetings, Daniel Bernard Roumain, a composer, performer, professor and friend of Tepper, gave an impassioned speech about the goals of his friend in the Office of the President. He told the audience, “I was speaking with my friend Steven, and he said, ‘Imagine everyone is rowing in the same direction. Who would not want to be on that boat, cutting through the water, the feeling of momentum, teamwork and the thrill of seeing the horizon racing towards us. Who would not want to be on that boat.’ And I responded, ‘What if, instead of I have a dream, it was we have a dream.’” Throughout his speech, Roumain emphasized Tepper’s focus on collaboration and asking creative questions.

After receiving an Honorary Degree of Law and another musical interlude of “Canocona Bergamasca” from the Hamilton Brass Ensemble, Tepper took the stage. In the nature of asking ‘what if?’ questions, Tepper asked the audience “How can we deploy the College to become a national laboratory for creativity and democracy?” The “What If?” Initiative aims to make Hamilton College into a leader amongst liberal arts colleges in creativity. Tepper’s goal is to bring creativity from the individual level to the institution level, saying “I’ve observed there are certainly pockets of creativity throughout our sector. There are so many creative people, but our institutions are not creative.”

Tepper went on to describe the type of projects he saw in his “What If?” Initiative. He posited, “Many of you have ideas you’re walking around with for how to make this college a better place. New ways to engage with difficult conversation, new ways to encourage approaches to our democracy, new ways to practice the liberal arts, new ways to engage in technology, new ways to connect art, sustainability and science.”

In a follow-up interview, Tepper told *The Spectator*, “We’ll bring people together in a festival of exchange, and then we’re going to fund pilots and experiments. And the only real criteria is that you have an idea that’s non-routine that you think will make campus better.”

When asked what the specific boundaries of the initiative were, Tepper told *The Spectator*, “We’re trying to keep the parameters pretty open.” In an email sent out on Tuesday, Tepper gave an outline of the general goals and parameters of the initiative. From the email, propositions should aim to unite departments that might not normally interact to improve the teaching and learning opportunities and capabilities of Hamilton College.

PHOTO BY NANCY L. FORD

President Steven Tepper smiles at audiene members during his inauguration ceremony. Tepper is now the College’s 21st President.

Propositions can be submitted by any student or employee of Hamilton College. There are three types of proposals that can be submitted for the “What If?” Initiative: Spark, Catalyst and Transformational. Spark propositions are smaller proposals to be designed within one semester and implemented the next. These propositions are given a budget of under $2,000. Catalyst propositions are larger projects which may require expanded community partnerships and are given up to an academic year to develop. These propositions are given a budget of under $10,000. Finally, Transformational propositions are for ideas that will significantly improve the College and have no specific budget cap or time constraint. All funding will come from the Office of President.

Each proposition will be reviewed and granted appropriate funding by an overseeing committee. This committee currently consists of seven members of Hamilton staff and faculty, but according to Tepper, it has room to

Story continued on p. 2

grow and change as necessary. Propositions require an idea phrased as a "what if?" style question, a three to four sentence pitch, a two to three paragraph summary with intended outcomes, the type of proposition, a draft budget and a list of current collaborators.

However, throughout the course of the investiture ceremony, another theme emerged: protest. In his speech, Roumain said, "No one president can satisfy all the moral and political obligations, obligations layered deep in a dense wall of opinions met by endless avenues of demands and choices and protests and prayer. And President Tepper, I have no doubt, is committed to your education, your success, your future, and will do all that he can every day to make all of your lives just a little bit better than the day before. And for some of you, it will be more than enough, and for others, it will never be enough. This is an albatross that we will all carry at some point in our lives. I have protested with a clenched fist, and then I was exhausted, and I opened my hand to you, and I proclaimed my love for you. My friend Steven changed my life, y'all."

This spirit of protest manifested itself when David Solomon, CEO of Goldman Sachs and Chair of the Hamilton Board of Trustees, took the stage. At that moment, many student protestors walked out of the ceremony to show their disapproval of the Hamilton endowment. Other students with a role in the ceremony held up signs with the words "Disclose" and "Divest." After the ceremony ended, protestors stood outside the Bundy Scott Field House, holding up signs and chanting "Disclose. Divest. We will not stop, we will not rest."

This protest was in line with the protests of last week in response to the execution of Marcellus "Khalifah" Williams and the Israeli bombing of Lebanon. These protests have been organized by Students for Justice in Palestine and aim to pressure the College into disclosing its investments and divesting from fossil fuels and the military industrial complex.

Tepper told *The Spectator*, "We're listening and we're hearing, and they are putting forward a serious issue of moral importance to consider, and we appreciate that they're doing that in a way that respects each other and respects the campus. I don't think I could ask for them to express themselves any differently." This statement echoes previous statements Tepper has made on preserving the free speech of students and listening to what they have to say. When asked if Hamilton would disclose its investments or divest, Tepper said, "There will be a conversation with some members of our trustees about how the endowment works to make sure they understand. We have no plans to divest."

With Tepper as president, Hamilton will move into a new era. The "What If?" Initiative provides a way for students and employees to create new projects to change the way campus is structured, which in turn could improve the lives of students and employees. However, without plans to divest, some students may be left unsatisfied by the change. As Roumain said, Tepper may not be able to "satisfy all the moral and political obligations." Despite that, he has already indicated openness to new changes on campus.

PHOTO BY NANCY L. FORD

Lisa Trivedi, Christian A. Johnson Excellence in Teaching Professor of History and Hamilton's College Marshal (seen above with the poisition's staff), offered the College's Land Acknowledgement at the ceremony.

Levitt Center hosts truth in politics discussion

by Mirix Robertson-Leich '27
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

The Levitt Center held the second installation of its Public Philosophy Discussion Series of the semester this Monday, Sept. 30. Community members, including students, professors and Levitt Center staff met over a lunch of Lafa for an hour of good food and stimulating conversation. The conversation was framed around Samantha Rose Hill's article "Reconsidering Truth and Politics," which examines how truth is defined in the context of politics.

Beginning with the conclusion that lies are, unfortunately, inextricable from politics, the conversation blossomed out to consider how we interact with that fact. Questions circulated about the degrees of a given truth, competing truths and the definition of truth: is it indisputable fact, or do individuals have their own truths? And how do we determine the extent to which someone's personal truth, based on their experiences, is valid in informing how they interact with the political world and the world in general? The following only captures a few of the thought-provoking points touched on in the discussion.

In politics, when does a consistently told untruth become a real truth for people, simply because it has come to be accepted as such by a given group? The dialogue also explored the matter of morals and pragmatism in relation to truth; is it moral to lie or twist the truth in order to achieve a moral solution, such as exaggerating the poverty in a given area in order to receive more assistance in ending it? The issue of truth in the face of priorities was also raised. In the example from Hill's article, community members living in Cancer Alley were aware of the truth of the pollution, but their economic stability was a higher priority to them. It was proposed that people can have a tendency to cherry-pick the truths they believe or acknowledge, basing their political stances and the ways in which they interact with the world at large on those select few.

These Levitt Center discussions provide a space for all Hamilton community members to engage in informal conversation "to foster critical thinking and open philosophical vantage points on social, cultural, and political issues."

the table. Different rationalities were offered from these areas in order to examine and understand the same issues, creating an inspiring and connective conversation.

In their own words, the Levitt Center "supports students, faculty and staff who aspire to understand and address pressing local, national and international challenges." More sessions of the Public Philosophy Discussion Series will be held throughout the semester, as well as other events aimed at engaging and connecting the Hamilton community. The Center also offers a host of programs focused on a variety of interests and civic engagement.

The discussion Monday expands upon the work of Arlie Hochschild, a sociologist who spent five years living in "Cancer Alley," Louisiana, a region that stretches between Baton Rouge and New Orleans, "where petro-chemical pollution has caused rampant cancer cases among the population." Despite the disproportionate rate of disease, members of this community have consistently opposed policies that would address the pollution due to concerns about the economic ramifications.

October 3, 2024

Presidental Inauguration continues festivities on Dunham Lawn after Investiture ceremony

by Madison Butler '28
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Large groups of students gathered together outside of Dunham Hall on Saturday, Sept. 29 to enjoy the combination of food trucks, lively performances and beautiful weather set to celebrate President Steven Tepper's inauguration.

These festivities began with a barbeque picnic under the Dunham Tent featuring a wide spread of dining options including brisket, cornbread and mac and cheese that drew in large crowds of alumni, students, professors and other guests. Similarily to many others, John Snyder, alumnus of Hamilton College's graduating class of 1966, shares that when he visits "for reunions and special events like this, the food is [his] favorite part." In addition to the food under the tent, many food trucks were available during the afternoon on the lawn next to Commons Dining Hall. These included The Cremeria, Oh Crepe and Waffles, Rockstar Ice Cream and a stand with kettle corn, cotton candy and soft pretzels.

Many were also able to join in on wearing Tepper's iconic fashion accessory, bow ties, by picking up the free t-shirts available on the lawn.

The Hamiltones kicked off the set list for this event with the incorporation of Tepper's classic look by also sporting bow ties themselves. Not only did the group match the themed attire, but they also brought in an upbeat energy when they left the stage during their performance and ran through the audience, creating excitement in the crowd.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @HAMILTONCOLLEGE ON INSTAGRAM

President Tepper joins HEAT on stage during the inauguration activities wearing a bow-tie on top of his bow-tie t-shirt. HEAT is Hamilton's hip hop dance group.

These activities also featured the debut performance of Hamilton's newest band, Lunch Meat St, composed of three members of Tumbling After. Numerous other musical groups took to the stage to provide entertainment such as Duelly Noted, Tumbling After and Special K. Jaime Chow '28 and Duelly Noted, describes her experience at the event as unique because "it was my first time performing outdoors with the group, but the very enthusiastic crowd during the Tepper line in 'Can you Feel the Love Tonight?' definitely made up for the heat."

PHOTO COURTESY OF @YONICYOUTHBAND

President Tepper poses with Yonic Youth, a student band that performed during Saturday's event.

John McLaughlin, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Dean of Admission, added that "it's great to see the campus alive, and have a chance to celebrate the start of a new era for Hamilton." This new era McLaughlin refers to appears to be optimistic as he shares that "I've had the opportunity to get to know Steven a little bit over the course of the last couple of months, and he is everything that he seems to be, smart, creative, funny and I think a great person to help lead us forward."

David Rivera, a professor at Hamilton College, was a delegate for Harvard University at Saturday morning's inauguration and agrees with McLaughlin that "I was impressed, and I think everyone should be impressed, by how many kind and clearly sincere words were expressed about President Tepper by his colleagues from institutions where he previously worked." Additionally, he applauds how "Hamilton College carries out such functions with a high level of competence" that allowed for Saturday's outcome to be possible.

The qualities listed by McLaughlin and Rivera came through in HEAT's dance number in which President Tepper joined the group on stage. The positive attitude of Hamilton's new President was definitely felt by everyone in the audience including Luiz Gandelman '28, who shared that "it was awesome to see Tepper's solo, and it is awesome to know our President has moves like that."

Although a Presidential Inauguration may occur sparingly, McLaughlin adds that "there are moments of ritual in the work that we do in higher education, that make this environment and work special, and today was a great example of that."

EDITORIAL

Dear Hamilton Community,

It's finally fall! Can you feel the change in the air? The new season marks the start of many of Hamilton's campus-defining traditions, including watching the leaves change color, breaking the sweaters out of our closets, and eating a few too many Cider Mill donuts (with cinnamon sugar, of course).

While we should all make time for the classic Hamilton happenings, this week is also abuzz with special activities and events. The Fall Fest Off the Hill Challenge is a must-participate event for all students, especially first-years. The event is geared towards local Clinton businesses, with prizes for teams that win a scavenger hunt. Make sure your Saturday is clear to participate. You can't miss the Squonk Opera Brouhaha, a spectacle that cannot be described by words but can only be seen to be believed. Just know that there is a Squonkcordion, and that the event is on Saturday afternoon on the KTSA lawn. Bring your extra lawn chair because you'll definitely be swept off your feet.

If you're looking for a more academic weekend, this Friday the Levitt Center is hosting a talk by Professor of Government Erica De Bruin, titled "When are Presidential Power Grabs Condoned? Evidence from Survey Experiments in the United States" at 12 p.m. in the Events Barn. Follow that up with a Wellin Museum "Friday Focus Tour" at 12:15 p.m. for the perfect start to your weekend.

Shots! Shots shots shots shots! Everybody sign up for your COVID/Flu vaccine through the Health Center's recent email and make sure to complete the pre-registration form before stopping by the vaccine tables outside of Commons on Oct. 8. Don't let the freshman flu get you.

Sincerely,
The Spectator

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Celebrating 157 years,
we *were first published as* The Hamilton Campus *in 1866.*

The Spectator

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The Spectator's Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national, and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college, and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

About Us

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October 3, 2024

Turning to the Advice Column Archives

by Sarafina Madden ’26
FEATURES EDITOR

PHOTO BY ANOUSHKA ASWIN ’25

Rogers Glen is one of many outdoor spaces where students can rejuvinate through physical activity.

Junior year has hit me like a truck. Higher level classes, classmates abroad and the noise about summer internships and professional life after Hamilton has put a damper on my happy-go-lucky, collegiate soul. Sitting on the third floor of the library, in desperate need of advice on how to find peace in what seems like an already tumultuous and pressure-filled year, I turned to the ghosts of Hamilton College. And by ghosts, I mean old *Spec* advice columnists from years past. One article, from Jose Vasquez ‘15 had some particularly useful advice that I think we all can learn from. Jose Vazquez ’15 shared similar feelings about feeling overwhelmed with work and extracurriculars: “It felt as if I was running on a treadmill gone haywire where I couldn’t keep up with the standards I thought were expected of me.” Vasquez emphasized the importance of being present. He listed a few concrete tips on how to stay grounded in the moment. Firstly, he urged his peers to ignore their phones when in a conversation with a friend or earring dinner. Our phones consistently rob us of the present moment, and thieve us of the joy that comes with having intimate conversations with friends. Maybe challenge a friend to a day or two of being “unplugged.” Not only will this help you stay focused but it will also ensure you have time for recreation. Prioritizing some amount of time regularly for a hobby you love is important. Play is vital to being successful academically.

Despite being published 10 years ago, I have a feeling Vasquez’s next piece of advice might still apply to some of you. Vasquez writes “Stop telling yourself you are ‘too busy.’ Prioritize time and stop watching Taylor Swift music videos for hours on end.” The Taylor Swift fandom lives on 10 years later. And while hours on YouTube have been replaced by afternoon TikTok scrolling sessions after class, Vasquez’s sentiment still stands. Limiting time online, finding peace in the present moment and turning both inwards and to the people around us minimizes distraction and certainly promises a more meditative life.

Alone time is important and Vasquez insisted that we carve out time for solitude and bask in our time by ourselves. He urges his peers to “Have a solo dance party in your room, and take yourself out of the work grind (Shakira is my usual go-to).” Shakira must be timeless because “Hips Don’t Lie” and “She- Wolf” never fail to find their way onto the que for my solo dance sessions. Physical movement, music and alone time is a recipe for rejuvenation. Cherish your time by yourself. College is the ultimate test of our ability to perform socially at all times. We all need some reprieve.

Vasquez also saw importance in rewarding yourself. He writes, “‘Treat. Yo. Self.’–Tom Haverford (eat that Opus cookie and share it with someone).” No more Opus, but Fojo and Euphoria have wonderful baked treats and coffee. A little afternoon in Fojo with a matcha, imagining you are in a boho cafe in Europe is sometimes all you need to expand your mind, think beyond Hamilton and imbue your life with a little romance.

Vasquez encouraged his peers to be present by asking themselves questions “What do I enjoy? What are my strengths? When am I my best self?” All too often, we are answering the questions of others. Take time to ask yourself something.

Have big assignments coming up? Vasquez said gratitude is the cure for the stress that comes with a heavy workload. “My life at Hamilton dramatically improved when I looked around and started thanking the people who carried me through difficult times at the College… I finally made a conscious effort to stop stressing over work and benefitted from looking around and recognizing those who make this place better.” Psychology studies have empirically proven that expressing gratitude improves mental health. Allocating time for expressing gratitude into your day will help relieve you of academic stress. It could be as easy as jotting a few words down in your Notes app as you eat breakfast and keeping a running tally of all the things you are grateful for.

Vasquez concluded by saying “Hamilton has become that experimental playground for my life and I hope that most of you take risks, make mistakes, continuously reflect and above all, shake it off.” Lean into Vasquez’s philosophy and let Hamilton be your playground.

Lifting my head from the rabbit hole of *Spec* archives, I turned back to my wooden cubby on the third floor of Burke, and gazed out the window at North Hall. I shut my computer, and walked to darkside where I met my co Features Editor, Meg Stroup at diner for a late night munch. Stress in college is normal, but the words of wisdom from previous Hamiltonians might help us retain our happy college spirits as we hurdle towards a world beyond Hamilton.

Bingo is back! Compete with your friends: Who is a more seasoned Hamiltonian?

Had dinner at a professor's house	Had a long talk with Kevin in McEwen	Had the S'mores cookie from FoJo	Gone to Utica Coffee after a night out	Stocked up on Commons mints
Stolen a plastic cup from Commons	Gone on a 46 Peaks trip	Regretted going to a G-Road Darty	Done the G-Road loop	Gotten frisky in KJ
Switched your major to Econ	Kissed a Jan	Free!	Gone to a frisbee or rugby practice	Rizzed in the diner line
Dropped a plate in commons	Napped in the KJ Atrium	Missed class on C&C Day	Pretended to look at your phone on Martin's Way	Gone to the Wellin
Had the diner mess	Closed out pub	Stayed on campus over the summer	Befriended your office hours TA's	Taken someone's laundry out of the washer or dryer

October 3, 2024

Searched on the Hill: Nicole Greenberg ’25

by Anoushka Aswin ’25
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Today marks the first installment of “Searched on the Hill,” a series where *The Spectator* interviews a student based on their search history. Each student is randomly selected by a computer program. Students volunteer recent things they have searched and our team uncovers some hidden Hamilton curiosities. We want to know what Hamilton students want to know!

This week, one of The Spectator’s *Editors-in-Chief was interviewed to get this series started. In the future, no one on* The Spec *editorial team will be included in the random selection pool (if you want to find out what we’re searching for you’ll have to ask us nicely).*

Search one: “where is moo deng hippo”

Why?
After learning that the viral sensation Moo Deng would be subject to 24-hour surveillance cameras to be broadcasted to the world, my friends wanted to learn whether surveillance is pervasive in Moo Deng’s country or if it was just reserved for the hippo herself.

Are you interested in surveillance or just slick hippos?
Moo Deng was a special case that piqued my interest both because she is slimy and sweet but also because surveillance is a topic I am quite interested in. When I was abroad, I took a class called “Who’s Watching?” where we examined how photography can be used to observe and control people without their knowledge. My biggest takeaway is that someone is ALWAYS watching.

That sounds like a cool class. What’s the most interesting class you’ve taken/are taking at Hamilton?
Issues in Education with Professor Chenyu Wang. It was cool and meta to critically analyze educational systems and hierarchies while being a student at a higher ed institution. Would highly recommend taking it to get a new perspective.

Name some issues outside of education.
Watching TV without closed captions. When the FoodU does not reflect the Food U Get at McEwen. How frequently my laptop overheats. The lack of good new sitcoms with ensemble casts.

Search two: “gilmore girls episode guide”

Why?
My suite has been watching *Gilmore Girls* now that fall is upon us. Someone watched an episode without me and although I’ve seen the show eight times in its entirety, I wanted to look up the previous episode summary to see what I missed because I felt left out.

What else passes the fall vibe check?
A movie that passes the fall vibe check is *Good Will Hunting*. The poster uses earth tones but also it takes place on a college campus which gives…school. A fall song is “Calling all the Monsters” by China Anne McClain because it gets me in the holiday spirit and ready for Halloween.

What makes a good Halloween costume?
A good Halloween costume should be clever and cute, however it shouldn’t be so clever that someone can’t understand it after it’s been explained to them once in a crowded, loud room. A Halloween costume that leans too far into clever that it’s actually dumb would be mine and my roommates’ concept for a group “Cone” costume. In this hypothetical, each of us planned to dress up as a different type of cone, e.g. “Traffic cone,” “Ice cream cone,” the shape cone, and “Cone-an O’ Brien.” This is a costume that doesn’t actually make sense.

Search three: “can you see when someone followed you on instagram”

Why?
I plead the fifth.

What do you know about the law?
I know many things about the law. Not only have I seen many legal movies like *Legally Blonde* or *Erin Brockovich* or *My Cousin Vinny*, but I also admit that I participated in Mock Trial as a high schooler. It was kind of like organized make-believe.

Was that your worst quality in high school?
No, I also played organized make-believe as a member of my high school debate team. I try to forget this quality about myself but when I watch people like J.D. Vance speak during the VP debate, I am reminded of the most pompous members of my high school teammates.

Any debate kid representation that you’re proud of?
Colin Jost. Idina Menzel. I’ll get back to you on that.

PHOTO COURTESY BY ALLISON BURG

Nicole (Nikki) Greenberg poses ironically in front of Alexander (Alex) Hamilton at the National Portrait Gallery in D.C.

Beyond the search: what’s your major? Government.

Favorite branch? Legislative.

Favorite tree? Birch.

Top three things? Raspberry lime seltzer, the Hamilton college student directory, warm lighting.

Where do you live on campus? Babbitt.

Best NYT game? I’m the best at the Mini, but my favorite is Spelling Bee.

Favorite Commons Creation (CC)? Makeshift Mocha: half coffee, half hot chocolate.

Biggest win? I won a guess how many candy corn are in the jar contest in fourth grade (I looked at the sticker under the jar).

iPad kid or leash kid? I’m actively an iPad kid but I’d rather have a leash kid —it sounds convenient.

Next search? Former debate kids + celebrities + good + cool

Common Ground hosts vice presidential debate watch party

By Meg Stroup ’26 & Hailey Lanari ’28
FEATURES EDITOR AND NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

JD Vance and Tim Walz shake hands on the debate stage following the debate.

While the previous presidential debate watch party was a crowded and excited affair, the vice presidential debate drew a smaller crowd and had a calmer atmosphere. Students sat at tables in the events barn and talked quietly amongst themselves–a stark contrast to the packed Red Pit that roared with commentary from students during the Harris vs. Trump debate. Given the high stakes of the impending election, it is more important than ever that students have a space to come together and stay up to date on the state of the election.

Common Ground hosted this watch party in the Events Barn Monday, Sept. 30 to encourage students to engage with both sides of the political spectrum, the program’s main objective. This event, which was titled,“Debate and Relate,” was accompanied by hot chocolate and baked goods. Watch parties like these provide a space for students to take their heads out of their laptops or problem sets and turn their attention to something more important, along with enjoying each other’s company.

Many students came to this event out of genuine curiosity, hoping to learn more about the vice presidential candidates and their views, rather than the entertainment factor sought out at the presidential debate. Jasmine Bonilla ’28 told *The Spectator*, “I came because I’m interested in JD and Tim, and so far I don’t know much about them… even though I’ll be too young to vote in this election I feel like I should know a little bit about it.”

Another student, Ashkan Khilwatgar ’28, shared, “I am here because this is an election that will determine U.S. policy not only for the next four years, but the years after that as well. Ensuring that we are educated in our representatives’ views ensures that U.S. democracy is headed in a just and favorable direction in the future.”

Prior to the debate, students completed an online Common Ground questionnaire in which they were asked how they heard about the watch party and provided feedback on Common Ground events. As we neared the start of the debate, Common Ground ambassadors dimmed the lights.

CBS News, the hosting network of the debate, chose not to issue live fact checking of the candidate’s statements unlike the presidential debate which was hosted by *ABC News*. Governor Tim Walz of Minnesota and Senator JD Vance of Ohio took the stage. Moderator Norah O’Donnell began the debate by posing a foreign policy question on the escalating conflict in the middle east. Both candidates voiced support for Israel, however differed in their stances on the U.S. approach to nuclear weapons in Iran. As the debate continued both candidates continued to defend their political stances. Moderators asked pointed, specific questions on a range of issues including America’s border with Mexico, abortion policy, the housing market, healthcare, aid for parents and childcare, election practices, gun violence and economic plans.

Moderators continually asked the speakers to respect their time constraints. Walz concluded the debate by commending democratic politicians and emphasizing a positive outlook on democracy. Vance followed with his own cocnluding statements in which he by criticized Harris’ energy policies and expressed his faith in the American Dream.

Throughout the Barn some students intently listening to the topics discussed, not taking their eyes off the screen. Other attendees multitasked–working on assignments, taking notes, reading and even braiding each other’s hair.

According to *The New York Times*, Vance spent about eight minutes attacking his opponent while Walz spent about nine minutes doing the same. This is a decrease in attacking time as compared to the presidential election in which Trump spent about 13 minutes attacking his opponent and Harris used about 17 minutes attacking Trump, according to *CNN*. Even without personal attacks, there were still instances of interruption and the hosts turning off the candidates’ microphones.

A polarized political landscape in America increases the importance of being politically informed, so that students focus on legitimate political principles and policy goals instead of a personal disdain for the opposing candidate and party. Some attendees believed this debate resembled a political scene more similar to a pre-2020 environment.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

Common Ground is a presidential initiative on campus that encourages political dialogue.

The candidates respected each other's time and generally spoke to one another in a respectful manner, focusing more on policy issues and dissatisfaction with the performance of the other's running mate. Common Ground ambassador Robert Neithart '26 agreed with this assertion: "The other ambassadors and I were very happy with the turnout; it was great to see a debate in which two candidates respected one another's time and engaged in some substantive dialogue."

Both candidates focused more on policy than in recent debates, a grounding and a refreshing contrast. Briana Martin '28 concurred: "I think it was nice that they were mostly civil towards each other."

During a commercial break the Common Ground student ambassador Andrew Hohmann '26 took a moment to express his gratitude to the attendees of the events, "From the bottom of all of our [Common Ground] hearts, we are so thankful that these events have been a success because all we want is to get you all informed and involved." Common Ground and its ambassadors work to boost civic and political awareness amongst students and provide a platform for individuals of different disciplines, political ideologies, and perspectives to come to an understanding.

Sarafina Madden '26, Common Ground Ambassador, shared her thoughts on the event. Articulating the importance of hosting events like debate watch parties, Madden commented, "Common ground is committed to providing forums for students to stay "in the know" about the state of the race and share their feelings and opinions about the election." She elaborated: "These events are vital to ensuring that Hamilton students do not lose sight of the stakes of this election and remain engaged in politics, even in the face of busy schedules and a rigorous course load."

Common Ground is committed to hosting more events like these: "Common ground intends to have several events leading up to election night. One even we are working on is a "election support group" where students will be able to talk in small groups about the election. "We also plan to ask government faculty to attend the event so they can contextualize the election and share their expertise," Madden noted.

Sharing her thoughts on the debate, Madden explained "I expected more aggression from Walz but I thought he did an excellent job criticizing Trump and emphasizing the threat that he poses to American democracy. Vance is definitely a chameleon. He was clearly making an effort to rebrand the Trump and Vance presidency as moderate and reasonable and win over swing voters who are weary of Trump's erraticism."

Robert Neithart '26 shared his response to the debate: "It was actually a more productive exchange than I'd expected. I know the last few debates haven't been the best models of effective dialogue between candidates, but I'd say it exceeded my expectations in that respect." He harped on the importance of hosting events like this one: "I think events like this are important because they encourage students to remain engaged and informed in the political processes that are happening in our country. I think it's pretty easy to settle into a bubble on this campus, so remaining privy to developments occurring at large is always a good thing."

The following day, there was chatter amongst the study body about who the debate. Some thought Vance was sharper and generally clearer in his stances, while others criticized him for his reputation for having inconsistencies in his policy positions. Some students seemed underwhelemd by Walz's performance, but believed that he performed decently well despite only recently entering presidental race.

In discussing the debate, though many students noted that they did not believe the debate would have any bearing on the outcome of the election and that irrespective of the speakers performances, the trajectory of the race most likely will remain unchanged.

The debate was successful in inspiring spirited political dialogue among the Hamilton student body, and inviting students to engage in debates of their own. Students should continue to take advantages of ones similar to this in order to both remain informed about the current political landscape and question their own beliefs, all while eating cookies and maybe making friends in the process.

Common Ground will continue to host events, engage with the student body. "We look forward to hosting more outreach events for students and incorporating student feedback into our event planning process," said Madden.

Neithart continued, "Speaking on behalf of my fellow Common Ground Ambassadors, we love hosting these sorts of gatherings that bring members of the campus community together to engage with interesting socio-political topics. We'll be putting on more events throughout the fall and spring, so make sure to keep an eye on your email and socials for future events!"

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Walz and Vance faced off on a range of policy issues, including abortion rights, border regulation and climate change.

PHOTO COURTESY IF HAMILTON COLLEGE

The Events Barn hosts many events for Hamilton students and faculty, ranging from student band performance to guest speakers and comedians.

A weekend without McEwen

by Laiba Arif ’28
OPINION CONTRIBUTOR

Weekends at Hamilton College are meant to be a time for rest, relaxation and reconnection. However, for students living on the dark-side of campus, the absence of a nearby dining hall on weekends disrupts this “peace,” turning a simple meal into an inconvenience. McEwen Dining Hall, situated on the dark-side of residential life, closes early on Fridays, and remains closed on Saturday and Sundays. It is time for that to change.

McEwen serves a pivotal gathering space for those on Hamilton's dark side, providing a sense of community and convenience for its residents. During the week, students can take a short walk to Mcewen to grab breakfast, lunch or dinner, enjoying a variety of exquisite food options without having to walk across campus. But, on the weekends, that option simply vanishes. Instead, students are forced to journey to Commons, the only other full-service dining hall on campus, or Howard Diner, which is open but offers a limited menu. What might seem like a minor inconvenience at first is actually a significant disruption for the dark-side community experience. Imagine having to leave your residence hall on a cold December morning, walking across the snowy campus just to grab some scrambled eggs. Not exactly the relaxed weekend for which students yearn.

There is something inherently unfair about how dining services are split across campus, particularly when the weekend comes around. While light-side residents have access to Commons during the weekends, dark-side residents must make the journey or resort to eating in their dorm rooms. This discrepancy creates a less ideal situation for those who already find themselves isolated from campus facilities, like the library and athletics center. By keeping McEwen closed on the weekends, Hamilton exacerbates an already unequal campus experience.

Reopening McEwen on weekends also instills a sense of community amongst dark-side residents. During the week, McEwen is not just a place to eat—it is a space where people gather and socialize. On weekends, this opportunity to connect with others is lost. If McEwen remains open, students on the dark-side could meet friends, study over lunch or take a break from life without having to journey across campus. Food, at its core, brings people together and having a local dining hall option on the weekends allows people to sustain a stronger sense of connection.

Opening McEwen on weekends could also provide more flexibility for students with varied schedules and preferences. Not everyone follows the same schedule, and having diverse dining options allows students to choose a meal location that best suits their needs and plans. Whether it is an early brunch before a weekend trip, a quick lunch between study sessions or a relaxed dinner with friends, having McEwen opened allows students to personalize their weekends without having to stress over where to eat.

Besides the social aspect, reopening McEwen could alleviate pressure on Commons, which often gets overcrowded especially during peak dining hours on the weekends. Students are often stuck waiting in long lines or struggling to find a place to sit. With McEwen as an available option, the dining experience would be less stressful for both students and workers. It would distribute the flow of students evenly, making a pleasant experience across both dining halls.

Hamilton College prides itself on fostering an inclusive community, and part of that means ensuring that all students have equal access to its facilities. Ultimately, the matter of McEwen's availability is about more than just food; it is about convenience, comfort and the feeling that where you live on campus does not limit you from what you can do. By opening McEwen on weekends, Hamilton can create a balanced and enjoyable experience for everyone.

Weekends are a time to unwind and having McEwen would make that easier for dark-side students. No one should have to choose between a long trek and the basic necessity of eating a meal. The dark-side deserves a dining option on weekends that is suitable and community-oriented. It is time for Hamilton to provide equal access to dining—making weekends better for everyone on the dark side.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE/KATHERINE O'MALLEY '19

McEwen Hall is by far the most easily accessible dining option for dark-side students, yet it does not operate on weekends.

Right now, NIL is bad for college football

by Ezra Lombardi '25
OPINION CONTRIBUTOR

This past week, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNVL) quarterback Matthew Sluka announced that he would be stepping away from the team after three games due to an NIL (name, image and likeness) dispute. This unprecedented decision sent a shock through the college football world and raised concerns about how issues surrounding NIL may disrupt the sport. As NIL deals become more common and more lucrative in Division I football, there has to be better legislation guiding these agreements between players and institutions. College football is changing fast, and it could be in real danger.

NIL refers to college athletes making money through endorsement deals, social media and other personal business ventures. This became legal across the NCAA in 2021 when the U.S. Supreme Court rejected the NCAA's appeal of its antitrust lawsuit. Since then, it has been the Wild West, with the NCAA working to draft NIL guidance and regulation at the same time that athletes and institutions are cashing in on the NIL gold rush.

NCAA athletes playing for free has always been a feature of the product. For many fans, amateurism was an endearing aspect, suggesting that young athletes are playing for pride, the love of the game and the honor of their institution. College football is like a religion in many parts of the United States, and the diehard fans who pledge their undying support to their team take respite in the illusion that the players on the field might just be doing it for them. In reality, this is not the case. Sure, school pride does still exist in college athletics, but it is far from the primary source of motivation.

Every year, the best players in college football unenroll from their institution to enter the NFL draft, where they are met with multi-million dollar contracts. The 32 first-round picks in the 2024 NFL draft signed contracts for a combined $640 million. It goes without saying that most eligible players are not concerned about their school's degree, the alumni network or the marching band. They want to go to the NFL. The issue is that most do not. Of all the players in Division I college football, only 1.6% make it. NIL provides an opportunity for everyone else to earn their fair share.

College football is a business, and a very lucrative one at that. Student-athletes generating money for their school should not have to play for free. The decision to allow athletes to profit off their name, image and likeness is without a doubt the right one. However, the NCAA's current inability to effectively monitor agreements between athletes and institutions is leaving athletes vulnerable.

In Sluka's case, his agent claimed that he was promised $100,000 in a verbal agreement that motivated his decision to transfer from Holy Cross to UNLV last winter. Despite the team's hot start, winning their first three games with Sluka under center, the quarterback decided that he would be better off utilizing the rest of his eligibility next season, with a new team. Sluka's situation stirred up emotion on both sides of the debate. Some called Sluka a quitter, condemning him for abandoning his teammates and coaches. Others claimed that this is unacceptable behaviour from UNLV and that it is the perfect example of how not to navigate the NIL landscape. I believe that Sluka's case is just the beginning of troubling and complicated NIL disputes in college football.

The big NIL agreements have many of the same characteristics as deals in professional sports, just without the guarantees. If the NCAA cannot find a way to clean things up, college football will become unrecognizable. Agreements will be violated, athletes will opt-out or transfer and the institutions will continue making millions while the student athletes continue to lose out. At the same time, fans will lose the attachment they have to their favorite team as the roster is reshuffled by transfers year after year.

In addition to the NIL frenzy, the NCAA has had major conference realignments, with schools all across the country joining new conferences to maximize profit. College football is the driving force behind these moves, with West Coast schools like University of Oregon and UCLA leaving the Pac-12 to join the more competitive Big Ten. Conference realignment marks a shift in priorities for college football programs, valuing business and national exposure over tradition. With conferences like the Pac-12 left barren, it is clear to see a future of college football dominated by the SEC and the Big Ten, much like the two-conference system in the NFL.

I do not think that the introduction of NIL into college sports has ruined college football—at least not yet. NIL can and should be a useful tool for collegiate athletes to earn money from their hard work and ability. With that being said, the current framework lends itself to negative consequences that could reshape the college football landscape. From damage to tradition and team cohesion to lack of legal protection in verbal and written agreements, NIL is a threat to college football.

The problems are not crystal clear, and neither are the solutions. Regardless, it is clear that there has to be a better model for college athletes to navigate NIL deals. This starts with strong leadership and a clear direction for the organization. I have hope that NIL will be a positive force moving forward, but this will require institutional change.

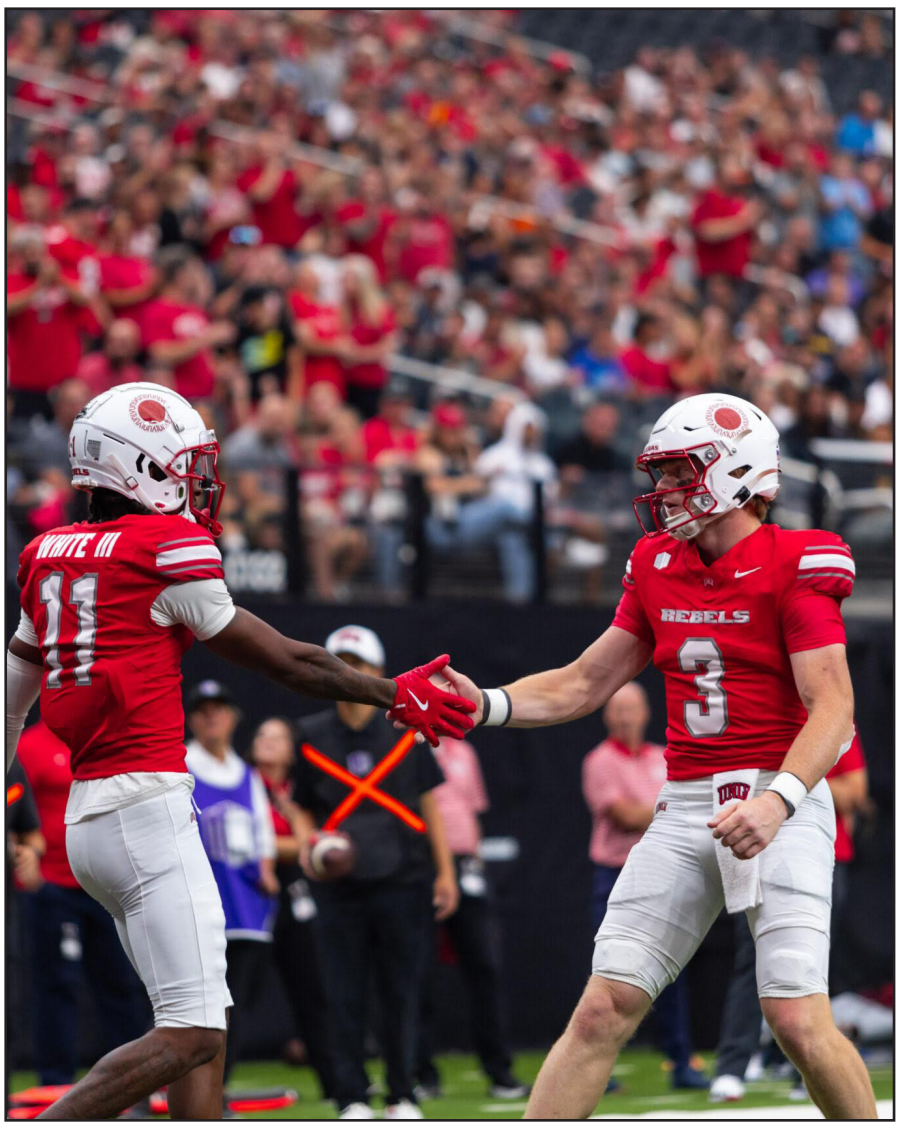

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNLV ATHLETICS/DJ CABANLONG

Quarterback Matthew Sluka (right) announced that he would be stepping away from his team due to a NIL dispute.

President Tepper steals show at own Inaugaration

by Harrison Kehler '26
STAFF WRITER

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE YOUTUBE

President Steven Tepper prepares to perform for the Hamilton community with HEAT.

President Steven Tepper was inaugurated as Hamilton College's 21st President on Saturday, Sept. 28. After the inauguration, a variety of food trucks graced the area between Commons and the Christian Johnson Building. Despite how it's officially fall, the sun and the outdoor activities made the day feel like a late summer goodbye. Vendors with crepes, kettle corn and ice cream served hungry attendees. In the tent in front of Dunham, the cafeteria staff provided lunch and temporarily closed Commons.

Starting at 1 P.M., student performances showcased their talent to celebrate the college's latest president. The Hamiltones sang previous selections from concerts past and incorporated new choices like "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For." At some point during their act, most members jumped off the stage to clap with the audience. One member even dedicated "Gold Old-Fashioned Lover Boy" to President Tepper. Duelly Noted followed with songs like " Eleanor Rigby" and "Can You Feel the Love Tonight." Tumbling After, Special K and Lunch Meat St. also performed just as meticulously as the other two acts.

HEAT performed around 3 P.M. for about 5 minutes. This limited performance most likely happened because the stage crew later set up for Yonic Youth. HEAT started with "Not Like Us" to truly encapsulate what made 2024 that year, as well as how Kendrick Lamar won his feud with Drake. The next songs went back to the 2000s as they danced to "Ride Wit Me" and "Boom Boom Pow" as they spun and synchronized to animate those slower songs. The crowd enthusiastically cheered for all the dancers, but they burst more decibels when President Tepper dashed onto stage. He came on during HEAT's performance of "Gasolina." He stood center stage as dancers made way for him to shine. They clapped along as Tepper performed a variety of dance moves. He moved side to side as he mimicked an ocean wave then transitioned to The Robot. Advertisements for the HEAT concert hinted of a special guest and speculation pointed to President Tepper. He even hinted about his dance moves last week when he delivered during his college update at the Chapel during Parents Weekend. He recalled his championship for an 11th grade Chuck E. Cheese dance. Tepper and the rest of HEAT collaborated as they moved their arms back and forth simultaneously and struck the final cross-arms pose. "HEAT was the best performance," exclaimed an anonymous student. "Especially from President Tepper's surprise appearance." Another student agreed that President Tepper's appearance contributed to the enjoyment of HEAT's performance.

President Tepper embraced his fun side when he danced with HEAT. Even though that Saturday honored him as Hamilton's latest president, he reflected his commitment to interacting with students and reminding them about the community Hamilton provides. These campus groups will return for future concerts and HEAT will definitely open on Class and Charter Day Concert next May. All of Saturday's performances are equally talented, it's just HEAT's special guest highlighted the importance of whose day it was to celebrate.

The Westerlies grace Hamilton with their musical presence

by Lucy Leness '26
A&E CONTRIBUTOR

On Friday, Sept. 27, Hamilton welcomed renowned brass quartet, The Westerlies, to campus. Based in New York, the group consists of Riley Mulherkar and Chloe Rowlands on trumpet, and Andy Clausen and Addison Maye-Saxon on trombone. *The New York Times* called the group "an arty quartet…mixing ideas from jazz, new classical, and Appalachian folk." The Westerlies graced a rapt audience in Wellin Hall with eleven songs, three more than promised on the original program.

As they walked on stage, the group immediately launched into their first song, "A Nearer Sun." An original composition by Mulherkar, the song takes inspiration from the story of Icarus. The slow, sonorous melodies seemed to ripple collectively through each member, as they swayed in time to the music. The quartet flowed easily into their second song, "Fight On," unleashing a fierce stampede of sound before trombonist Andy Clausen addressed the audience, calling the opportunity to play in a space like Wellin Hall "heavenly." Though the quartet bounces between genres, Clausen noted their captivation with the tradition of American shape-note music. Later popularized in New England, the shape-note tradition historically referred to a vocal practice of the mid-18th century in England. Shape-note tradition depicts written notes using varying shapes and arose to make learning music easier for singing groups. Much of the quartet's original compositions take inspiration from aspects of shape-note singing, in addition to the traditional shape-note hymns they play.

Trumpeter Chloe Rowlands composed the group's next song, "Kerhonkson," inspired by the town of Kerhonkson, NY, which lies just a few hours south of Clinton. Meant to occur at a walking tempo, "Kerhonkson" highlights the gentleness of the trombone and pluck of the trumpet, somehow jaunty, tranquil and celebratory all at once. The fourth song, "Weeping Mary," spotlighted a trumpet solo by Mulherkar, before Rowlands and both trombonists joined in to create a perfect harmony of hope and longing. Mulherkar explained that they had heard this song sung by Sam Amidon and instantly knew they wanted to delve deeper into folk and jazz as a quartet. Mulherkar composed their next song, "The Evening Trumpet," after hearing a hymn called "The Morning Trumpet;" he spoke of the ubiquity of trumpet symbology in hymn, and explained he wanted to create his own take on the hymns he had spent so long learning. Atop a thrumming trombone rhythm, "The Evening Trumpet" deeply exploits the trumpet's capability for all sorts of sound. The trumpet is high and wistful, deep and growling and as buzzing as a swarm of wasps.

The group continued with a more traditional shape-note song by William Walker, called "Louisiana," which had actually inspired "Kerhonkson;" Rowlands explained that she essentially flipped this song "upside down" to produce "Kerhonkson." Another traditional song, called "Parting Friends," followed, and Clausen then introduced his own composition, "The 5:10 to Ronkonkoma," intended to celebrate the group's affinity for public transit. As traveling musicians, the Westerlies often take the 5:10 a.m. Long Island Rail Road train from the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, all the way to Jamaica, Queens. Clausen noted that while this itinerary usually gets them to their 7 a.m. flight from JFK on time, the LIRR occasionally skips Jamaica, and goes express to Ronkonkoma. He asked the audience to consider whether this song ends with the group making their flight, or missing it altogether– personally, despite the shrill crescendo in the middle of the song, I felt like the ringing triumph of the final bars had to signify a successful travel experience!

The quartet continues to explore new pathways of creativity, even taking songs meant for string quartets and adapting them for brass. Brass quartets are a much younger concept than the age-old tradition of string quartets; after hearing "Entr'acte," composed by Caroline Shaw of the Attacca string quartet in Brooklyn, The Westerlies knew they wanted to adapt the song for brass instruments. The first few bars "fit like a glove," Mulherkar noted, though the group had to invent various new sounds for string notes that brass simply could not replicate. The Westerlies' rendition of "Entr'acte" involved the use of mufflers, and their own breath sounds, as if they could beat-box through their trumpets and trombones. Clausen's composition, "New Berlin, New York," followed, inspired by a decrepit barn he had visited in the town itself, and the concert ended with "Saro," a beautiful old English folk song that the band has played since their formation in 2011.

Clausen emerged once more to profusely thank Hamilton "for having us, [and] for providing a stage for the arts and for acoustic music to happen." The Westerlies' spectacular performance brought on thunderous applause. Alongside their beautiful songs, they shared with the audience the palpable joy of making music with truly great friends. Their newest album full of shape-note songs will come out in 2025, but be sure to check out their ten current albums and various collaborations (with artists like Fleet Foxes and Big Red Machine), available on a myriad of streaming platforms.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LUCY LENESS '26

The Westerlies next tour date is on Oct. 14th at The New School in New York City.

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Tufts Men's Lacrosse players diagnosed with serious condition after Navy SEAL workout

by Brooke Marx '26
STAFF WRITER

PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL LAST

Tufts celebrates a national championship over RIT last spring with a score of 18-14.

On Monday, Sept. 16, the reigning NCAA Division III men's lacrosse national champions, Tufts University, engaged in a 45-minute workout led by a Tufts graduate and current Navy SEAL. After practice, 12 players were hospitalized and diagnosed with rhabdomyolysis.

The 12 lacrosse players suffered varying degrees of the condition, with some staying in the hospital for over a week. As of now, all players have been discharged.

These were the first cases of large-scale rhabdomyolysis in all levels of collegiate sports in the past few years. Also known as rhabdo, rhabdomyolysis is a rare but deadly condition that causes a breakdown of muscle, which releases a damaging protein in the bloodstream. Rhabdomyolysis can lead to greater complications like kidney failure or damage, seizures, heart arrhythmias, cardiac arrest, permanent disability and even death.

Treatment for rhabdomyolysis is mainly extensive rehydration, and in rare cases, people need dialysis to filter the blood and remove detrimental chemicals and unsafe levels of electrolytes.

The workout was supposedly voluntary despite the attendance of roughly 50 players, over 88% of the roster. Someone associated with the team allegedly supervised the workout, but it is unclear who. Team Head Coach Casey D'Annolfo was not present for the session. With their recent national championship this past spring, the fourth in program history, team culture may have transformed optional workouts into mandatory ones with the expectation that all players will participate.

Rhabdomyolysis usually results from lengthy, intensive workouts spanning hours, not 45 minutes supposedly optional offseason training. However, the severity of Navy SEAL workouts is known to push people to their limits beyond any typical physical activity. The alumnus who led the workout had recently graduated from the Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL training program, also known as BUD/S.

BUD/S is a six-month course that strains trainees physically and mentally beyond any typical collegiate athlete' workout, especially for Division III collegiate athletes. BUD/S training leaves these trainees sleep-deprived, enduring hypothermic conditions, and persisting physical discomfort and pain that is beyond imaginable for the average college athlete. BUD/S is known to cause problems even among the SEALs who undergo them who have the knowledge and preparation to prepare for the physicality of the workout.

The disastrous effects from this one workout may cause alarm for the rest of NESCAC. Coach-led out-of-season practices have only been permitted as of the fall of 2023. NESCAC has been known for its strict offseason regulations compared to other conferences in Division III athletics. Off-season practices have been allowed in other conferences and at most upper level conferences for years.

NESCAC has upheld prioritizing the student above all else and not wearing out the athlete. However, considering that multiple young athletes' lives were endangered by this extreme off-season workout, NESCAC may reconsider their recently changed regulations. Currently, it is unclear what ramifications the coaches or university may face.

The university has begun investigating the events surrounding the workout and the school's strength and conditioning rules and regulations. They are focused on overseeing a thorough and unbiased investigation to prevent putting the university's athletes in danger like this again.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LARRY FRENCH

Tufts celebrates with Coach Casey D'Annolfo after National Championship win.

This week in Hamilton fall sports

by Andrew Brennan ’25
SPORTS EDITOR

Men’s Soccer:
The Men’s Soccer team defeated Ithaca College 2-0 in a road game on Tuesday with two goals late. Troy Miller ’28 scored both goals, the first one with just 4:44 left in the game and was assisted by Pandelis Margoronis ’25, and the second with just 1:38 left off a corner kick. Despite Ithaca having nine shots on target, they were unable to get anything past Hamilton goalie Finn Wheeler ’27, who made a career-high eight saves, recording a shutout for the second time in his career. Hamilton will look to continue their success on Saturday, Oct. 5 against Colby on Love Field in Clinton, N.Y.

Women’s Soccer:
The Women’s Soccer team edged past Bowdoin in a 2-1 victory, which advanced the team to 4-2-2 on the season. After Bowdoin took an early lead, Isabel Harvey ’28 equalized the score, assisted by Maddie Ledbury ’26. Hamilton secured a lead of their own with a goal by Erin Rayhill ’25 that was shot into the top corner of the net, assisted by Olivia Zubarik ’25. Hamilton goalkeeper Olivia Connolly ’27 recorded nine saves on the day. Hamilton will play their next game against Colby College in another NESCAC matchup on Saturday, Oct. 5 on Love Field in Clinton, N.Y.

PHOTO COURTESY OFJOSH MCKEE

Erin Rayhill ’25 scores goal in 2-1 Continentals victory over Bowdoin.

PHOTO COURTESY OFJOSH MCKEE

Hannah Apsey ’25 wins 20th career doubles match with partner Stephanie Pratt ’25.

Men’s Tennis:
Hamilton College’s Connor Griff ’25 made it to the finals of both the singles and doubles draw at the 2024 Intercollegiate Tennis Association Men’s Division III Northeast Regional Championships. Unfortunately, Griff was unable to play in the finals due to injury. Beginning on Oct. 10, Griff and his doubles partner Antonio Chavez ’28 will compete in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Cup after earning automatic qualification. Tarun Korwar ’27 also had success that weekend, winning three matches until losing in straight sets in the quarterfinals. The regionals mark the final event for men’s tennis this year.

Women’s Tennis:
In the final matchup of the season, Hamilton’s women’s tennis team emerged victorious against Smith College 5-2 on Saturday, Sept. 18. Playing a seven-point scoring system for dual matches, the Continentals earned the available doubles point with a victory by winning two out of the three matches. This included a doubles victory by partners Hannah Apsey ’25 and Stephanie Pratt ’25, who notched their 20th career win as a doubles team.

Men’s Golf:
In the Northeast Elite which took place on Sept. 28 and 29, the Hamilton’s Men’s Golf team placed seventh out of 20 teams. Hamilton’s Ramon Aroca Gonzalez ’26 earned individual medalist honors, posting a career-best on 36 holes and winning the tournment. Eric Soderberg ’26 tied for 16th place, dramatically improving on his previous career best for 36 holes. In his first tournament this season, Tyler Tornoe ’25 tied for 57th. The team’s next competition will be on Saturday, Oct. 5 and Sunday, Oct. 6 at their own fall invitational at Rome Country Club. Jaikrit Bhattacharya ’26 and Ryan Connors ’25 shot 157 for the weekend and Brian Healy ’25 finished with 152.

Women’s Golf:
On Sept. 28 and 29, the Hamilton Women’s Golf team had a strong outing in the Williams College Invitational, placing sixth out of 21 teams. Peyton Sichol ’26 tied for 15th place out of 114 golfers in 36 holes, leading the team. Aubrey Lee ’28 tied for 26th place, tying Sichol for the best round by Hamilton that weekend with 75 on Sunday. Keira Josh ’27 placed 39th and Sarah DeSanto ’25 placed 53rd. Hamilton hosts its own fall invitational at Rome Country Club on Saturday, Oct. 5 and Sunday, Oct. 6, where the team will look to follow up their weekend success.